



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

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Fire Prevention Week Oct. 7-13: “Have Two Ways Out!”

City of Falls Church Fire Marshal Encourages Residents to Keep Homes Safe

If you woke up to a fire in your home, how much time do you think you have to get out safely? According to the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), one-third of Americans households think they have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life threatening. Unfortunately, the time available is often less.

That’s why the City of Falls Church is teaming up with NFPA during Fire Prevention Week, October 7-13, to urge residents to “Have Two Ways Out!”

This year’s theme focuses on the importance of fire escape planning and practice. In 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to 369,500 home structure fires. These fires caused 13,350 civilian injuries, 2,640 civilian deaths, and \$6.9 billion in direct damage.

“One home structure was reported every 85 seconds in 2010,” says Capt. Tom Polera, City of Falls Church Fire Marshal. “Fire is unpredictable and moves faster than most people realize. Having a tried-and-true escape plan with ‘two ways out’ is essential to ensuring your family’s safety should fire break out in your home.”

Capt. Polera recommends the following tips for fire safety planning:

- Make an escape plan from a map of the home, marking a door and a window that can be used to get out of every room.
- Choose a meeting place outside where everyone can meet. Mark the meeting place on the escape plan.
- Write the emergency telephone number for the fire department on the escape plan.
- Sound the smoke alarm and practice the escape plan with everyone living in the home.
- Keep the escape plan on the refrigerator and practice twice a year or whenever anyone in the home celebrates a birthday.

The Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department and the Arlington Career Firefighters will be hosting an Open House on Thursday, October 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to promote “Have Two Ways Out!” Visit www.fallschurchvfd.org and www.fallschurchva.gov/firemarshal for additional safety information.

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